



# Wisconsin Elections Commission

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**Wisconsin Elections Commission**  
**Special Teleconference Meeting**  
201 W. Washington Avenue, Second Floor  
Madison, Wisconsin  
1:30 p.m. August 30, 2023

Open Session Minutes

**Present:** Commissioner Marge Bostelmann, Commissioner Joseph J. Czarnecki, Commissioner Ann Jacobs, Commissioner Don M. Millis, Commissioner Robert Spindell Jr., and Commissioner Mark Thomsen, all by teleconference.

**Staff present:** Julia Billingham, Joel DeSpain, Sharrie Hauge, Brandon Hunzicker, Robert Kehoe, Anna Langdon, Angela O'Brien, Riley Vetterkind, Riley Willman, Jim Witecha, and Meagan Wolfe, all by teleconference.

**A. Call to Order**

Commission Chair Millis called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. and called the roll. All Commissioners were present.

**B. Administrator's Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice**

Administrator Meagan Wolfe informed the Commission that the meeting was noticed in accordance with Wisconsin's open meetings laws.

**C. Consideration and Possible Authorization of Emergency and Permanent Administrative Rule Amendments to Update Ballot Access Challenge Processes and Mandatory Use of Uniform Instructions for Absentee Voting**

Staff Attorney Angela O'Brien presented background information on emergency and permanent administrative rule procedures. She went into detail on the two proposed topics: required use of absentee ballot uniform instructions and administrative process for ballot access challenges.

Discussion.

Chair Millis clarified that the existing recommended motion would not prevent staff from drafting more than one scope statement.

Discussion.

*Wisconsin Elections Commissioners*

Don M. Millis, chair | Marge Bostelmann | Joseph J. Czarnecki | Ann S. Jacobs | Robert Spindell | Mark L. Thomsen

*Administrator*  
Meagan Wolfe

Chief Legal Counsel Jim Witecha sought clarification from the Commission that staff would draft three scope statements. The first would seek the mandatory use of the Commission's uniform instructions. The second and third would each relate to ballot access challenge processes, with one seeking to amend existing rules to clarify the procedural components of nomination paper challenges, and the other seeking to create an entirely new provision of code detailing the breadth of what falls under the Commission's challenge authority. The Commission confirmed this was their expectation.

**MOTION:** The Wisconsin Elections Commission authorizes staff to begin the emergency and permanent rulemaking process for rules to require municipalities to use the Uniform Instructions for absentee voting and to implement a discrete administrative process for ballot access challenges.

Moved by Commissioner Bostelmann. Seconded by Commissioner Thomsen.

Roll call vote: Bostelmann:	Aye	Czarnezki:	Aye
Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

#### **D. Closed Session**

##### **a. Litigation Update / Wis. Stat. § 5.05 Complaint**

##### **b. Discussion of Grant Program Audit Results**

**MOTION:** To move into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(g), 19.85(2), and 19.85(1)(f).

Moved by Commissioner Jacobs. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Roll call vote: Bostelmann:	Aye	Czarnezki:	Aye
Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

The Commission moved into closed session at 1:55 p.m.

#### **E. Adjourn**

The Commission adjourned in closed session at 3:10 p.m.

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August 30, 2023 Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes prepared by:

August 30, 2023 Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes certified by:

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Joseph J. Czarnecki, Commission Secretary

November 2, 2023

DRAFT